



June 13, 2021

Ms. Katheryn Shields
414 E. 12th St.
22nd Floor, City Hall
Kansas City, MO 64106

Re: Katz on Main - Ordinance No. 210285

Dear Councilwoman Shields,

I am writing on behalf of the Southmoreland Neighborhood Association (“SNA”), which respectfully requests that the Katz on Main tax incentives be approved in whatever form is needed to preserve the original building and clock tower.

We support incentives for this project because the original building and clock tower is critical to the historic character of our community. This building is a rare example of the Moderne design movement in our City. It is imperative that the City do what is within their abilities to ensure that this building be preserved and occupied. A building of this style and significance could never be recreated in today’s construction climate. Building today is volatile and insecure, with material availability and construction costs increasing wildly. The City should be doing what it can to assist in supporting property owners as they navigate an uncertain environment in preserving existing historic buildings, such as the beloved Katz on Main.

Incentives will be necessary for this project in any case. It is critical that Kansas City be selective in approving incentives, no doubt. Sacrificing a priceless historic building like the Katz on Main is not the building to deny a chance for preservation and reuse. We look forward to this project and its incentives moving forward, and enjoying many more years of the Katz Building as a landmark of Midtown.

Sincerely,

Laura Burkhalter
Vice-President and Chair of Planning and Development
Southmoreland Neighborhood Association